



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
1777 HARDEE AVENUE SW
FORT MCPHERSON GA 30330-1062

SEP 27 2006

AFAG-PPP

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, All FORSCOM Troop Units

SUBJECT: Command Emphasis -- Army Voting Assistance Program

1. Reference memorandum, Department of the Army, 23 August 2006, subject as above (enclosed).
2. With the November 2006 General Election almost upon us, and voter registration deadlines even sooner, time is running out for Soldiers and their eligible family members to participate in this year's election. As we enter the final two months of the voting season, I expect all commanders to review their voting assistance programs and ensure all Soldiers have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote.
3. All organizations must have an appointed, trained, and engaged Voting Assistance Officer (VAO). Commanders will ensure their VAO has the necessary resources to provide Soldiers and eligible family members the superior level of service they richly deserve. Voting registration deadlines vary by state; therefore, Soldiers wishing to vote must act in accordance with the ballot request procedures endorsed by the state in which they vote. State specific registration and ballot request deadlines are listed in the 2006-7 Voting Assistance Guide.
4. I know you will support to the fullest measure this key program.

Encl


DAN K. MCNEILL
General, USA
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

23 AUG 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Emphasis-Army Voting Assistance Program

1. We recently celebrated the independence of our Nation and the blessings of liberty that our founding fathers have provided. It is important that we emphasize the principal tenet of these causes—the right of the people to choose the leaders of their government. It is our duty, as leaders of the United States Army, to do everything we can to ensure Soldiers have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. The November 2006 Federal Elections are fast approaching. Your responsibility is to provide all the support you can to ensure each of our Soldiers has the opportunity to cast a valid ballot.
2. Your organization should have a senior Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) (colonel or above, or a civilian equivalent) to manage this program. A VAO should be appointed to assist Soldiers and eligible family members at every level of your organization. The appointed VAO must be fully trained, aggressive, and prepared to provide all of the support necessary to successfully execute their duties.
3. Soldiers who want to vote may complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) or comply with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which they vote. The FPCA Standard Form 76, or other request, should be mailed as soon as possible. Completed ballots must be in the mail to the United States by 14 October 2006 for overseas voters. Soldiers registered to vote who have not received their state ballots by 14 October 2006 should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB Standard Form 186). The FPCA and FWAB are available online at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/forms.html>.
4. Voting is both a privilege and responsibility of citizens in a democracy. Your personal involvement will ensure the success and effectiveness of this most important program.

Peter J. Schoomaker
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army

Encl

SUBJECT: Command Emphasis-Army Voting Assistance Program

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